

II. *A Letter from Daniel Peter Layard, M. D. and F. R. S. to the President, containing an Account of the Case of a young Lady who had an extraordinary Impostume formed in her Stomach.*

S I R,

*Read May 3. 1750.* **T**HE Communication of the following Case, which I have the Honour of laying before you, will not, I hope, be deemed an assuming Step in me: My only Design is, in Obedience to your Commands, to give you as exact an Account as I am able of this unexpected Cure; and I shall esteem it the highest Pleasure, should any Benefit accrue from this Observation. Give me leave to subscribe myself, with all possible Respect,

S I R,

*Your most humble*

*Dean-street, Feb. 17.  
1749 30.*

*and most obedient Servant,*

D. P. LAYARD.

**M**ISS——a young Lady of seventeen Years of Age, being at a Boarding-School about three Miles from this City, was, on the 28th of *November* 1745. taken with profuse Sweats, which, after some Continuance, and weakening her much, were stopped by means of *saline Draughts*, made with *Elixir Vitroli*.

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On the Removal of those Sweats an Obstruction of the *Menses*, with all its Symptoms, ensued. A Shortness of Breath, a dry Cough, an acute Pain in the Left *Hypochondrium*, *Rigors*, &c. were taken for the Signs of a *Peripneumonia*; and, the Medicines usually prescribed having no Effect, a Blister was applied on the left *Hypochondrium*. The *Fætids*, and *Musk*, as in a *nervous* Case, were also administered in large Quantities, but with as little Success.

It being thought advisable to bring the young Lady to Town, I first saw her on the 12th of *Feb.* 1745-6. when I observed a large prominent *Tumor* on the left *Hypochondrium*, which reached to Part of the Right, filling up the *Epigastrium* and *Scrobiculum Cordis*, where she complained of a constant acute Pain. The *Muscles* of the *Larynx*, *Pharynx*, and Neck, were much swelled, and the *Glands* indurated. The other Symptoms were a continual quick Pulse, Thirst, hoarse Cough, Difficulty of breathing, *Cardialgia*, and Obstruction in the *Oesophagus*, so that, as soon as any Liquid “fell down,” as she expressed it, “to the Pit of her Stomach,” she instantly threw it up with violent Pain, *Borborigmi*, *Erućtations*, and *Singultus*.

On the 14th, finding the Symptoms increase, especially the Obstruction in the *Oesophagus*, and apprehending that an *Abscess* was forming in the *Stomach*, I desired Dr. Mead should be called in, who confirmed me in my Opinion. In order to assuage the Inflammation, a cooling *mucilaginous Mixture*, and a *Sperma Ceti* one, were prescribed, as also a *laxative Glyster*. Next Day, being told, that not a Drop of the Mixtures could be admitted  
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into the *Stomach*, Dr. Mead took his Leave, advising the Repetition of the Glyster every three or four Days, as Necessity might require, and that Nature should be watched, in case of a favourable Turn, which He did not much expect, having observed, that those *Abscesses* more frequently terminate in a *Gangrene* than by *Suppuration*.

On the 16th the Glyster brought away with the *Feces* some Pieces of Membranes, about a Finger's Length, and two in Breadth; to lubricate the *Intestines* I directed ten Ounces of plain Mutton Broth to be injected, which, after the first time, was constantly absorbed and was repeated twice every Day, till the 3<sup>d</sup> of *May*.

In this State, with no other Sustenance than these *Broth-Glysters*, the *laxative* one repeated every third Day, and a warm *carminative Plaster* applied on the *Tumor*, did the Patient continue till the 17th of *March*, when, observing an Intermision in the Pulse, and hoping that a Decoction of the *Cort. Peruv.* might corroborate the Solids, if absorbed, as the *Broth Glysters* were, I directed eight Ounces of the Decoction to be injected, and repeated four Hours after: By Accident, the first was not half thrown up; the second, on the 18th of *March*, at Two o'Clock in the Morning, had a very extraordinary Effect; for being entirely absorbed, about two Hours after, the young Lady complained of a most acute Pain in her *Stomach*, which by its Violence brought on a profuse Sweat, and threw her into a *Syncope*, wherein she remained a full Quarter of an Hour; then, shrieking, made Signs to her Nurse to bring her the Basin; she vomited near two Pounds

of *grumous Blood*, and then some purulent Matter ; thereupon she discharged by Stool above four Quarts of well digested *Pus*, with several Pieces of *Membranes*, like those before-mentioned. The purulent Discharge continued gradually decreasing till the 23<sup>d</sup> of *April*. *Balsamics*, and small Quantities of thin Veal and Mutton-broths, were daily given. *April* the 29th the Patient was purged with Pulp of *Cassia*. On *May* the 3d the *Mutton-broth Glysters* were omitted, the *Stomach* now performing its Office. The 7th ten Ounces of Blood were taken from the Foot, which brought down the *Menses*. The *Tumefaction* and *Induration* of the *Muscles* and *Glands* of the Neck were removed by the continual Application of the *Emplastr. Saponac.* And after the Use of *Stomachics*, and *mineral Waters*, the young Lady was perfectly cured on the 17th of *June* 1746. and has continued well ever since.

It may not be improper to observe, that the *Stomach*, on account of the Number of Blood-vessels it is furnished with. is as liable (1) to *Inflammations*, and *Abscesses*, as any Part of the human Body. These are occasioned by a Stagnation of the Blood, which, if not speedily removed, must greatly endanger the Patient's Life, by obstructing the necessary vital Functions of that *Viscus*. The speedy Progress of this Disease, and the Remoteness of the Part from proper Applications, render its Termination mostly fatal ; and, as Dr. *Mead* judiciously observed, these *Abscesses* more frequently terminate by a *Gangrene*,  
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(1) *Boerhave* in Aphorism. de ventricul. inflam. p. 228. Articul. 951. 952. 955.

than come to *Suppuration*. Those that do suppurate, generally form Ulcers, penetrating into the Cavity of the *Abdomen*, and sometimes also perforate the *Integuments*, as the following recorded Observations testify. (1) “ Monsieur PETIT has found a “ *carcinomatous* and *fistulous Ulcer*, which eat “ through the *Fundus Ventriculi*, and the *Integuments* of the *umbilical Region*.

(2) “ Monsieur Duverney also found a Hole in a “ *Stomach*, which he could pass his Thumb through : “ This Hole was near the *Pylorus*, which was extraordinarily dilated.

(3) “ Monsieur LITRE observed an Ulcer of five “ Lines Diameter, about one Inch and a half from “ the *Pylorus*; and found three Pints of *grumous* “ and *serous* Blood in the *Stomach* of a young Man “ who had voided large Quantities of Blood.

(4) “ The same Gentleman gives an Account of a “ *Tumor* on the right Side, which being opened “ between the *last* of the *true Ribs*, and the *first* of “ the *false ones*, there issued out *Pus*, *Stones*, and “ the *Succus Gastricus*, with Pieces of digested Food.

(5) “ And Mr. ATKINSON tells us in the Philosophical Transactions, that he opened a *Tumor* on “ the upper Part of the Belly, out of which Opening part of the *Omentum* came, and whatever the “ Patient eat or drank for eight or ten Days : Yet “ the

(1) Mem. de l'Academ. des Sciences, Ann. 1716. p. 312.

(2) Hist. de l'Academ. des Sciences, Ann. 1704. p. 27.

(3) Ibid. p. 30.

(4) Ibid. p. 28.

(5) Philos. Trans. No. 371.

“ the Patient, contrary to his Expectations, was  
“ cured in six Weeks.”

But the following Observation from FORESTUS comes the nearest to our Case “ *Puella quindecim annorum, per biennium ferè cum de dolore ventriculi conquereretur, anno tertio tumorem manifestè viderunt parentes, in eo loco ; neque tunc quicquam consilii aut remedii tentatum. Hinc ruptienem animadverterunt, excrevitque puella materiam, biliosam, pituitosam, ac saniosam, per alvum : ex his apostema apparuit,*” &c. (6).

“ LÆTUS (7) relates several Instances of Persons  
“ who have lived a long while without Food, but  
“ then they could admit of Liquids ; and the young  
“ Lady which Monsieur LITRE (8) nourished with  
“ *Broth-glysters*, in which a Yolk or two of Eggs,  
“ and sometimes a Glass of Wine, were mixt, could  
“ also keep Water in her *Stomach*, tho’ no other  
“ Fluid.” An Advantage which our Patient was  
deprived of.

From what I have related it appears, that our young Lady had an *Abscess* in her Stomach, which gradually ripened, and then broke, suppurated, digested, and cicatrized, as all other *Abscesses* do ; and that during this time, which was near three Months, she was almost all the while nourished solely by the *Mutton-Broth Glysters*.

III. Ac-

(6) *Forestus* Observ. 33. de ventricul. ulcer.

(7) *Lætus* de his qui diu vivunt sine alimento.

(8) Mem. de l’Academ. des Sciences. Ann. 1716. p. 183.